

Executive Registry  
77-446

11 February 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

Executive Assistant to the  
DCI-Designate, ADM Stansfield Turner

SUBJECT : Admiral Turner's Question: "Comments about CIA and intelligence made by President Carter prior to and subsequent to the election"

President Carter has made very few public comments about the CIA or about intelligence. Other than his remark that he has confidence in Mr. Knoche and that the CIA is in good hands (see 2 February Washington Star article attached as Tab A), the most pertinent Carter statement was in Time of 3 January (extract attached as Tab A), when he said that he will not make "precipitous changes" in the Intelligence Community and that his knowledge of the Community outside the CIA was very limited. He has made no public statement (of which we are aware) since 20 January that would imply a change in his 3 January position. In response to questions about an "intelligence czar," he said he hadn't decided whether or not to change the present arrangement where the DCI already is a kind of "intelligence czar."

(NOTE: Prior to his swearing-in, the President-elect discussed intelligence, the Community, and CIA privately with George Bush and other CIA officials. I hold the classified file on these sensitive discussions and can make it available to Admiral Turner when he wishes - although none of the material is public and therefore could not be used during the Admiral's open confirmation hearings. In addition, Richard Lehman (Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence) was in charge of intelligence support to the President-elect, met with him on several occasions, and is prepared to brief Admiral Turner on these meetings.)

A. Specific Statements: post-election (attached as Tab A)

-- 19 December 1976 New York Times article. President-elect states he is studying the question of separating the functions of the DCI and the head of CIA in the light

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of his wish to have more than one source of intelligence coming to him. (NOTE: This concept was of considerable interest to Vice-President Mondale when he served on the Church Committee. We will send you material from the Church Committee report shortly.)

- 1 December 1976 Victor Zorza article and 17 November 1976 Economist (Foreign Report) article. The Zorza article is written on the basis of interviews with Schlesinger, Tom Hughes, and Ray Cline, the latter two of whom have published very specific ideas about CIA and Community organization. The Economist article sets forth Cline's views.
- 20 November - 1 December 1976: Several articles centered on the George Bush 19 November sensitive intelligence briefing of the President-elect. These articles contain no direct quotes from the President-elect.

B. Specific Statements: pre-election (attached as Tab B)

- 8 October 1976 transcript of Ford/Carter debate of 7 October. Governor Carter refers to "CIA revelations" as contributing to the "deep hurt" done to the American people, and includes CIA in a list of situations such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Chile, Pakistan, Angola, and Watergate. He also deplores "secrecy" in negotiations and the "secret treaties" which have supported dictatorships and ignored human rights.
- 25 September 1976 transcript of Ford/Carter debate of 24 September. President Ford referred to his reorganization of the Intelligence Community, but as Governor Carter began his reply by pointing out there has been a breakdown in the trust of the American people in their government, the television audio failed. (NOTE: There was one accusation that the CIA had been responsible for this failure.) When the debate renewed, Governor Carter said that there was too much government secrecy and not enough respect for the privacy of American citizens. He later said that the "U.S. system of government - in spite of Vietnam, Cambodia, CIA, Watergate - is still the best system." (NOTE: Governor Carter's references to CIA and revelations about it were not expanded on by the press. Since the election, we have seen no statements of a like nature.)

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- 14 August 1976 Washington Star article revealing Governor Carter's public endorsement of DCI Bush as having instituted the changes in CIA required by Congress. (NOTE: This statement by Governor Carter was welcomed by CIA because it helped take CIA [and intelligence generally] as an issue out of the political campaign.)
- 22 July 1976: Governor Carter requests briefings on intelligence and foreign affairs from the CIA rather than from State. The article speculates that Governor Carter thought State's briefings would be colored by policy considerations.



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